


## Editorial

## Let Us Unite For Charlestown

In response to an increase in crime within the Charlestown Community during the past few weeks along with reports of a decrease in police presence, a delegation of Charlestown residents and businessmen met with the Command Staff of the Boston Police Department at Boston Police Headquarters this past Monday morning.
During that hour-long session, complaints and concerns were "laid on the line" by community representatives regarding the increase in armed robberies, house and store burglaries, auto thefts and vandalism, guns, drug sales and abuse. The lack of police visibility was the main concern of the group. Traffic bottle-necks on the North Washington Street Bridge, mornings and afternoons, diminishing police response time from Government Center and leaving the Charlestown district uncovered during change of shift was discussed in detail. The reported robbery of a Bunker Hill Street store three times in the past five days was a grave concern as was the burglary of (Continued On Page 3)


Saint Catherine of Siena, Hayes Square
Christmas Eve Masses - 4:00 p.m. and Midnight
Christmas Day Masses - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Note: There will not be a $5: 30$ p.m. Mass on either day)
Saint Francis de Sales, 305 Bunker Hill St.
Christmas Eve Masses - 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. which will be a Concelebrated Mass with principal celebrant Most Rev. John McEleney, S.J., former Archbishop of Kingston, Jamaica
(Note: There will be no Midnight Mass)
Christmas Day Masses - 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 11:30 am. and 5:00 p.m.

Saint Mary's, Warren Street
Christmas Eve Masses - 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
(Note: There will be no Midnight Mass)
Christmas Day Masses - 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. \& 11:30 a.m.
First Baptist Church, 5 Monument Square (See St. John's)
First Church of Charlestown, Green Street (See St. John's)
Saint John's Episcopal Church, Devens St. Christmas Eve
10:30 to 11:00 p.m., Christmas Caroling
11:00 p.m. Combined services with First Baptist Church, First Church of Charlestown and St. John's Episcopal Church.


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## Charlestown Community Calendar

and somerville Chronicle an independent weekly One Thompson Square Old Bank Building) Charlestown, Mass (Drop box for copy and adver tising also at rear of 7 Belmon treet)

LORIA J. CONWAY Publisher
Managing Editor
JAMES W. CONWAY Editor
241.9511


Tuesday, December 23
Films For Children - 3:30 p.m. Charlestown Branch Library, 179 Main Street
Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve Mass - 7:00 p.m. - St. Francis de Sales Church, 303 Bunker Hill Street Tuesday, December 30
Films For Children - 3:30 p.m. Chariestown Branch Library, 79 Main Street

## To Talk Of Many Things

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance - 8:00 p.m. - Bishop Lawton Hall, St Francis de Sales Church, 303 Bunker Hill Street
New Year's Eve Dinner Dance - 8:00 p.m. - Knights of Columbus Hall, 75 West School Street
New Year's Eve Party - 8:00 p.m. - American Legion Hall, 27 Chestnut Street
New Year's Eve Dance - 9 to 2
p.m. Street
Thursday, January 8
Las Vegas Night - 8:00 p.m. Cobblestone Restaurant, 412 Medford Street
Friday, January 9
Pop Warner Banquet - K. of C. Hall, 75 West School Street Saturday, January 10
Testimonial Banquet Honoring
State Department Commander

James W. Conway - 7:30 p.m. Radisson Ferncroft Hotel, Danvers
Monday, January 19
Charlestown Town Council Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - Charlestown Community Center, 14 Green Street
Friday, January 23
Night At The Races - 7:30 p.m. St. Catherine's School Hall, Tufts Street

## It's A Boy

Christmas, Like Freedom .
by Sal Giarratani
There is a growing need for keeping Christ in Christmas. America's moral majority is tired of those detractors who would destroy the true meaning of Christmas. To this majority, Christmas is more than Santa Claus...it is Bethlehem and the Christ Child.
Annual attacks on this holiday come every December without fail. This year it is the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union which has gone to court to force the City of Pawtucket to dismantle a City Hall nativity scene. But these at-


John H. Sawyer Funeral Home
329 Bunker Hill Street
John H. Sawyer, Jr. - Director
tacks are unwarranted. Suits charging Pawtucket with promoting religion and violating the First Amendment are absolutely ridiculous. These suits just don't call for separation of church and state, they are divorce decrees between government and morality
I can't believe that a nativity scene very much like our's on the Boston Common are either divisive or offensive to either non-believers or believers of other faiths!
But these attacks are not new. In 1659 the Pilgrims here in our home state passed a law home state passed a law
proscribing Christmas observaproscribing Christmas observa-
tions and fined violators of this tions and fined violators of this
law and such observations were not legalized until 1686 and

Christmas was not declared a legal holiday until 1856. Christmas, like freedom, must constantly be defended, because the more things change, the more hey stay the same. America's moral majority must stay on guard against modern-day Oliver Cromwell and ultraliberal ecular humanists Yes Virgisia.
Christmas and it is here is
Christmas and it is here to stay!

Sgt. and Mrs. Stephen J Driscoll, U.S. Marine Corp. of Quantico, Virginia, announce the birth of their son, Stephen, on December 16, 1980 at Fort Belvoir Hospital, Virginia.
The maternal grandparents are Mr . and Mrs. Milford Cooper of Aledo, Illinois.
The paternal grandmother is Mrs. Margaret Driscoll of 20 Mystic Street, Charlestown.

## Cloyd W. Ratliffe Dies In Malden

Funeral services were held on Monday morning, December 15 in Malden for retired machine operator, Cloyd W. Ratliffe who
IN MEMORIAM
John "Skipper" Slavin
Happy Birthday
died suddenly Friday, December 12 at the age of 78 . The Reverend Harvey Smith of Christ Methodist Church, Malden, officiated at the service. Interment was at Forest Dale Cemetery, Malden.
Cloyd Ratliffe was born in Virginia, and he resided in Charlestown before he moved to Malden 46 years ago. He worked for Hersey Paper Company 44 years before retiring.
Cloyd W. Ratliffe leaves his wife Lillian R. (Turner) Ratliffe, formerly of Charlestown, his daughter, Virginia Lancaster of Malden, his son, George Justice of New Hampshire, and six grandchildren and eight greatgrandchildren. He also leaves his sisters; Lucy McCready, Arbrie , Johnson, and Ethel Lester, all of Virginia


## Let Us Unite For Charlestown

(Continued From Page One)

two Main Street businesses last week and the many housebreaks that have been occuring on almost a daily basis. The point was raised that Charlestown is only one mile square and the question was asked - where are the police in Charlestown?
The results of this meeting was a commitment from the Command Staff that Charlestown will have adequate police coverage and the group was informed that several new plans are being formulated for implementation in the immediate future that would address certain crime problems within the community.
In return for the commitment by the Police Command Staff, the residents and businessmen pledged to undertake a drive to increase citizen co-operation in reporting incidents of vandalism, suspicious persons and/or cars, suspected sale of stolen merchandise, names/incidents of drug dealing. In order to encourage resident co-operation in reporting these suspicious occurences, and to protect the identity of the person reporting the incident, a telephone number has been released for just this purpose.
If you see a suspicious person, car/van, or happening call: 247-4468 or
247-4469.
These lines are manned between 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. seven days a week. In reporting incidents give as much information as you have - names, descriptions, license number, exact location of the suspected crime. You may remain anonymous.
As an added protection, the police recommended that valuables such as TV's, stereo's, typewriters, etc. be engraved with your identification (usually your social security number) The Ident-o-guard engraver is available for your use at Little City Hall, 236 Bunker Hill Street (242-0805). This offers ease in identifying merchandise that has been stolen and is a deterrent to theft.
Many of our residents, merchants, and visitors have been victimized by a rash of crime over the past few weeks. The emotional and financial impact has been felt in every quarter of the town - "Townies" are hurting "Townies."

Charlestown - let's unite in the spirit of this holiday season and unify to insure the safety of our homes and streets.


## Charlestown Little City Hall News

Charlestown Little City Hall is now approaching the end of its eleventh year of existence. During those eleven years it has been our community's main line to public services. For the short time I have been here, I am proud to say that I have been a part of the Management Adpart of the Management Ad-
ministering Services for our minist
town.
Since my appointment, there hasn't been a period of time where the office has operated at a stagnant pace: The day I began working here at Little City Hall, Mahoney Construction Company nearly knocked down a resident's home on Bunker Hill Street; there were numerous problems
concerning the street reconstruction throughout the town; the MBTA threatened to shut down the Bunker Hill Street buses, unless Bunker Hill Street was repaired; the Hollywood Film Bureau made its debut here in Charlestown; then there was the residents displeasure of the in residents displeasure of the in reased property Pax, the effects of the passing of Proposition $21 / 2$, and the unfortunate tragedy of the Dighton Family fire. Consequently, this office has been occupied with an abundance of concerns relative to our neighborhood. I feel it has handled them professionally and in a more than adaquate fashion. Now with the Christmas

Season upon us and the New Year fast approaching, it is time to put the past behind and begin 1981 in a responsive manner. I believe if such concerns are handled in the future as they were in the past nothing will stop the progress nothing will stop the progress and efficiency we have here at Little City Hall.
I would like to thank the residents of Charlestown for making this office effective by your sonsistent response to the community's needs. Without your help the functio: of this office would be stagrant.
Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rick Charbonnier Little City Hall



# The City Scene 

## by Dick Sinnott

TIME AFTER TIME I TELL MYSELF THAT I'M GOING TO: NATURALLY WISH YOU the happiest of holidays and confess, yes, I will be schussing the trails of Loon Mountain at this time next week.
WONDER IF YOU'RE AWARE, OR EVEN CARE, that there's such a thing as the "Worry Index" which is a monthly barometer of American angst and indicator of how the stockmarket will behave. And did you know that crime and drugs are what people worry about when there's nothing else to worry about?
SHARE WITH YOU these Presidential trivia questions which readers failed to ask "The City Scene"

At least 30 cities have been named after President Washington, but only one after Nixon: I'm-Not-a-Crook, Wyom ing.
Washington was unhappy with Paul Revere's decision to use flashing lanterns from the Old North Church to warn of the way the British were approaching. He would have preferred a topless serving wench flashing one if by land and two if by sea.
Zachary Taylor had three sons in the Civil War. One wore blue, one wore gray and one wore a lime-colored bodice and sunbonnet.

And finally, no President was an only child, but Carter wishes he'd been one.
YEP, TIME AFTER TIME I TELL MYSELF THAT I'M GOING TO:
WONDER ALONG WITH THE REST OF YOU when I see "Improved" on a package in the grocery store, what was wrong with the last one I bought.
AGREE WITH MILTON'S BILL MCLAUGHLIN that an optomist is the guy who reaches for his car keys when the featured speaker says "in conclusion"
RECALL how my parents used to teach me the value of a dollar Today I teach my kids the value of a gallon.
INFORM ONE AND ALL BUT PARTICULARLY "CRACKER JACK" LOVERS that about three million dollars is spent each year for those little surprises in the package that cost
about a penny to manufacture. This is an unique item, so I'll continue and tell you:
More than 16 billion "toys" have been packed into "Cracker Jack" boxes in the last 68 years. To insure variety, the company says, 600 different toys are used to stuff boxes each day. Carried further, this means 25 million toys of a particular series are purchased each year
SYMPATHIZE with a friend of mine who lives in a neighborhood beseiged by burglaries. To protect his own home he went out protect his the largest out fiercest watchdog he could find fiercest watchdog he could find. Two days later the dog was
stolen. stolen.
LAUGH ALONG WITH HYDE PARK'S MURPHY who says when you think of it a girdle is nothing but an oversize pot holder.
ASK IF YOU'RE AWARE that the nation's favorite candy bars include Snickers, Reese Peanut Butter Cups, M\&Ms, Three Musketeers, Babe Ruth, Junior Mints and that old standby the Milky Way.

YES M'AM, YES SIR, TIME AFTER TIME I TELL MYSELF THAT I'M GOING TO:
ALERT YOU THAT GENERAL ELECTRIC wasn't the only company which hired President Elect Reagan as a spokesman. In 1948 actor Ronnie hyped Chesterfield cigarettes and five years later he was telling us to wear Van Heusen shirts. Remember?

ASK IF YOU KNOW what our servicemen called the Iranians whom we were training to be jet pilots:-"Skyranians"
CALL FOR A MORATORIUM ON rock acts that persistently show up late for gigs. I consider it an insult, don't you? Inciden tally, thanks for your letter re our "'moratorium" column earlier this year. We plan another one.
TELL YOU THE GREATEST THING to happen in years to New England's wig industry is the musical play "Annie." Each youngster playing the title show on Broadway and on the road was fitted with six of the curly red wigs.
QUICK NOW FOR TWO passes
to a fairly clean movie: Who is Dinah Mattingly?
EXPRESS SORROW over the growing divorce rate. Ten years ago there were 47 divorces for very 1,000 intact marriages. Toay the figure is 92 out of every 1,000 . That's a jump of 96 percent.
REPLY TO THAT CHARLESTOWN reader who asks "In the Roy Rogers' movies was the name of Dale Evans' horse "Buttercup" or Buttermilk?"
Clara Antonellis, the North End wizard, says the horse was BUTTERMILK. I love this tale Clara tells about the Western couple: Recently Dale bought Roy an expensive pair of new hoots. Leter he was riding around oots. Laterh when a wildeat leaped from the brush, clawed leaped from thom his foot and one new boot from his foot and chewed it up before running off. Dale didn't buy Roy's story of what happened when he returned with the tattered boot; she was sure there were no wildcats in the area. However, a week later when Roy was napping on the porch, she looked out the window and there, loping across the ground in the distance, was indeed a wildcat.
Dale rushed out on the porch, nudged her husband and sang: "Pardon me, Roy, is that the cat that chewed your new shoe?"
Hey there, Tex, get it?
NOW LET'S SHUSH OUR WAY INTO "THE CITY SCENE" LIBRARY
Penguin books gets my literary approval this month with some absolutely delightful and helpful paperbacks. Like what, say you? Like these, say I:
In the nearly seventy years since it sank, the ship "Titanic" has been synonymous with tragedy at sea. Despite in numerable investigations not one has adequately accounted for has adequately accounted for
history's greatest maritime dishistory's greatest maritime disaster until Wyn Craig Wade's
"'The Titanic: End Of A
tragedies have continued to fascinate the public like the sinking of the "Titanic". This book will fascinate you-five stars. Another Penquin prize is titled 'How to Have A Child and Keep Your Job" by Jane Price.
Today there are more than 11 million families in the United States that have both parents working full-time outside the working full-time outside the home. The big question that concerns every working mother and father is the same: "Can I keep my job and still be a good parent?" According to author Jane Price, it is possible to combine work and parenting and to be successful at both. In her book Jane Price offers the information that working parents need to give their children the best possible care.
In the opening chapters of this
invaluable guide, author Price advises potential working parents to think very carefully about having children, to ex amine their feelings, and to think in terms of how their work hours and job distance will affect their relationship with their child.
She details the pros and cons of having children either early in have or later For the early life or later. For the men and women who are already parents she explains how to evaluat child care, from local child car facilities to in-house help, how to interview candidates for caretaker positions, how to plan for il lness and emergencies, how to deal with school-related problems, how to share parenting responsibilities, and most important-how to tell if you child is happy or not. A remarkable book!



Season's

## Greetings

from

## The Wizard

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 Dream". Few other historica



## Charlestown Readies For Xmas


photos by Maria Girvin


To wish you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.


## CITY SQUARE SHELL

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## The Candle -

## A Christmas Story

## by Charlie McGonagle

O'Grady hated Christmas. The nightmares always returned with each year's celebration of Thanksgiving, and it was well into January before the ugliness was flushed from those nocturnal horrors.
Eighteen years had passed since the fire, and every year his hatred toward the Christmas Season became more intense
How he and Nancy had looked foward to the bab's first Christmas. She had been born the previous January, and was just old enough to sense the differences brought about by the season. O'Grady, himself, had picked out her gifts, mostly dolls of various sizes and shapes, capable of doing most anything. Nancy bathed in his love of her and the child. "She's just a baby," she had said on more than one occasion. O'Grady know that, but that was all part of it. She wouldn't be a baby forever, but he was detormined to make that, and every other stage of her life, a lifelong, happy memory
It was Christmas Eve. O'Grady had bought the Candle just that afternoon. He had seen it in the Candle just that afternoon. He It lured him to the window of a small Gift Shop. It lured. The wick store with an inexplicable magnitism. The wick became a brilliant flame with only the slightest prodding of a wooden match. It's light created a warm, flickering glow which seemed to add the inal Holiday touch to the kitchen.
The glass of Milk and three Chocolate Chip Cookies were placed below the Candles's flame, its light reflected on the note. "For you, Santa", It read, "From The O'Gradys "
Later, after Nancy had put the baby to bed, O'Grady drank half of the glass of milk and ate two f the cookies. He carefully bit a small piece from the third Chocolate Chip and returned it to its place the thide Milk. Below his message, on the same beside the M. Betionery in handwriting with small sheet of stationery, in ha. "Writing with a slightly different slant, he wrote, "Thanks for the snack. Sorry, I didn't have time to finish it. Santa.
It was a family tradition he vividly remembered

from the Christmas' of his childhood.
The excitement of the baby's first Christmas played on O'Grady's mind. Sleep would not come easy, and then he remembered the Candle. Had he put it out? Looking toward the slightly opened bedroom door, he saw no flickering colors dancing from the kitchen one flight below. Satisfied he had extinguished the candle. He drifted into a peaceful sleep.
The heavy black smoke clawed at his lungs, waking him from his now deep sleep. "Nancy!" His voice was laced with fear 'Nancy, Wake Up! There's a fire!
"Nancy, c'mon. the Baby!" The realization of what was happening shocked her to her senses. The small crib was at the foot of their bed only because of O'Grady's insistence. Just a week before Nancy of O'Grady's ince. "In had suggested moving her into her own room. "In a couple of weeks," he told her. He was glad, now
she hadn't pushed the issue. O'Grady leaped from his bed and reached into the crib. Picking up the baby, he was careful to leave the blankets draped over her tiny body. He tucked her face beneath the protection the covers offered He reached back for Nancy. Through the thickening haze, he could not see her. In the darkness, she found his arm, and together they groped their way through the acrid blackness.
(Continued On Page 13)


> Frank H. Carr Funeral Home

Philip x . Carr, Director


Wishing all our customers and friends a Merry Christmas
Ray Denise
Tom

# Attrru Christmas 



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## Order Your Party Platters

 For Holiday Entertaining ple take the time to do special things for other people that they often forget or don't have time to do the rest of the year. We would like to tell you about a neighbor and a new friend to us who does special things all year long. His name is Bud Sweeney
On Thanksgiving eve with a car full of packages, our old car , broke dore It was dark, cold and windy. My husband's attempts to get the car started all tempts to get the car started all failed. We were unloading the
bundles and trying to figure out bundles and trying to figure out
how we were going to get home when a man pulled up and offered to help.
Without gloves or hat, Bud worked on the car for 15 minutes. Finally he informed us that it was the fuel pump. We didn't know what to do. Bud took right over. He picked us up in his car and drove us and the bundles home. He told us he would fix it for us Friday.
At 7:30 a.m., Friday morning Bud called for the car keys. We were anxious about the cost and concerned that he would be unjer n miser miser Happy

able to fix it in the pouring rain or would have to have it towed. My husband received a call at his office at 11:00 a.m., Bud had fixed the car in the rain, using a fuel pump from a junked car, and had delivered the car and keys to the house. He said he would call later that evening about payment or we could mail it.
We can hardly believe how kind, trusting and helpful Bud Sweeney is
We realize that this is a long letter but hope that you will be able to print it as we would like to publicly thank Bud and also because we believe that kindness ceca Bud's should be acknowledged.
Bud Sweeney is a credit to Charlestown and to human kind. Happy Holidays The Foley Monument Avenue P.S. Bud is an auto mechanic who's place of business is at the corner of Bunker Hill Street and Lexington Street.
$\rightarrow$ ?



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Michael \& Charlene
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242-9638


May your home
be filled with joy and happiness at this holiday season and throughout the new year!

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## Christmas At The Community Center




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Globe Santa Revisits Charlestown


Globe Santa to over 70 Charlestown residents
The Globe Santa was established by the Boston Globe. It has been serving needy families for 25 years. The establishment for 25 years. The estabisme Santa is an attempt to elp make Christmas a little help make Christmas a
brighter for these families.
We like to express how We would like to express how proud we are to be able to have served the Boston Globe through this very commendable program by helping to spread joy to those needy residents of our small, but closely knit, community.
We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to the Boston Globe for providing this program and send our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all who were serviced through this program.

Globe Santa's Little Helpers Charlestown Little City Hall Films For Children The Winter Films For SchoolAge Children will present "The Man From Nowhere" on Tuesday afternoon, December 30, 1980 at 3:30 p.m. at the Charlestown Branch Library, 179 Main Street. Storytelling will follow the film program.

To Everyone At Little City Hal On behalf of myself and the Thank You

## December 22, 1980

Dear Mrs. Conway
I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank everyone involved in Saint Catherine's Bazaar held on December 6th 1980. The Bazaar was a huge suc 1980. The Bazare was a huge suc cess due to the generosity of local merchants, parishioners and friends of Saint Catherine's
Thank you one and all!
The Fundraising Committee
Saint Catherine's

Senior Citizens we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We also want to thank you for all that you have done for us during the year. A special thank you to Mary Evers for arranging all the shopping trips and to Richie Flynn for his kindness and patience.

We all hope that Little City Hall remains open because the people there are so helpful and pleasant. Without you the Senior Citizens would have a great loss

Most sincerely Margaret Turner Elderly Nutrition Site Manager
 The Thlessitug
of Christmas

It is with genuine appreciation of your friendship and patronage that we extend this heartfelt good wish



New Year＇s Eve Party
Thursday，December 31， 1980 Open Bar，Hot \＆Cold Buffet Dick McManus and the Irish Revolution
Buffet 8 p．m．to 9 p．m．－ 12 a．m．-2 a．m．
$\$ 50.00$ per couple

## St．Catherine＇s

## New Year＇s Eve Party

Wednesday，December 31
St．Catherine＇s Hall Tufts Street Dancing 9 p．m．to 2 a．m． Chinese Food－Open Bar最 $\$ 17.50$ per person Contact The Rectory for tickets

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## Resident Graduates From City Training Program

Charlestown resident，Irene Eatherton，was one of 26 men and women recently graduated from the Boston Marine Industrial Park Job Training Center on Monday，December 8 Ceremonies were held at the Franklin Institute of Boston．

After completing thirty－two weeks of training in computer electronic technology，the new graduates will have little dif－ ficulty finding a job．Many of the graduates will be shortly working in their new fields judging by the $95 \%$ placement record of the Job Training Center After graduating less than two weeks ago，fifteen graduates have job offers．
The City＇s Economic Develop－ ment and Industrial Corporation of Boston（EDIC／Boston） operates the Job Training Center with CETA job training funds provided through the City＇s Employment and Economic


READY FOR NEW CAREER：Irene Eatherton is congratulated by Joseph D．Downing（left），Assistant to the Director of EDIC／Boston， and Michael Mazzola（right），Director of the Franklin Institute of Boston on her completion of the computer electronic technology course at the Boston Marine Industrial Park Job Training Center．The City＇s Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Boston （EDIC／Boston）operates the Center with funds supplied by the City＇s Employment and Economic Policy Administration．
（Photo Credit：Alfonso Fajardo）
Policy Administration（EEPA） The Franklin Institute provided instruction for this course．
The Job Training Center also offers courses and practical training in General Business with concentrations in accounting and inventory control，Metal Fabrication including welding and sheet metal fabrication and Machine Tool Set－Up and Opera－ tion．
EDIC／Boston is the City＇s lead agency for economic develop－ ment．
For more information on job training opportunities at the Job Training Center call 482－7787．


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## SPEEDY <br> 

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| :---: |

## The Candle - A Christmas Story

## (Continued From Page 7)

In his efforts to escape, he hadn't noticed her grip on his arm loosen. He assumed she was with him as he found his way out of the bedroom, down the stairs, and out to the safety of the street.
The sharp sound of approaching sirens, and the incessant flashing of red lights blended with cold December air to jolt him to awareness. A Firefighter took the baby from O'Grady, and quickly covered her face with a black oxygen mask. "Nancy!" The realization that she had not been with him when he reached the sidewalk struck for the first time. "Nancy!" His cries were frantic, his efforts to re-enter the house near superhuman, as several neighbors and firefighters struggled to restrain him. Tongues of red and orange flames licked the casing of the opened front door. They found her later, less than ten feet from the escape that same front door offered
The weeks that followed were the toughest of O'Grady's life. He had taken some time from work in an attempt to rebuild both his life and the corner of the house which had been destroyed by the fire.
Convinced he would not be able to raise the child properly, he had arrangements for Nancy's sister, Marge and her husband, Kevin to legally adopt her. They were wonderful people and he knew they would think of her as one of their own. They had two sons, and had always hoped for the day when a little girl would come along. O'Grady's decision was a wise one, but he regreted it from the moment he closed the car door and watched them drive off, fifteen hundred miles away.
Through letters and pictures, mostly, he would see his little girl grow into a beautiful young lady. The few times he did travel out to see her proved to be too much for him. To hear his little girl call Marge "Ma" and Kevin "Dad" created an inner feeling he had chosen not to experience.
"You know I'm 'dopted O'Grady?' Nobody else called him O'Grady. He often wondered why she did. She was four, maybe five when she told him. It had been Marge's decision to tell her. "Isn't it better that way?" she reasoned, "Rather than have her told by somebody else later on." She was right, of course, but she had not told the little girl about 0 'Grady. "That part belongs to you," she had said. He hadn't seen the girl since that day. It had been his choice.
The first Christmas after the fire, he had returned to the Gift Shop and purchased another Candle, an exact duplicate of the first one.
He had kept the gifts, each unopened, in a closet. The largest package was a portrait of Nancy and the baby. It had been made from an old photograph, expertly by a professional. It was to be Nancy's gift that fatal Christmas. The red and gold wrapping
paper had wrinkled over the years, but had never een removed.
Each Christmas Eve since the fire, O'Grady would take the gifts from the closet and place them under the tree. How ironic, he often thought, that this part of the house and all the gifts had been spared from the fire.
His annual ritual consisted, also, of lighting a Candle and leaving milk and cookies on the kitchen table. He would go to bed then, and pray to God that the Candle would complete its work. Fate had not catered to his wishes.
Now, eighteen years after the fire, the girl had unexpectedly asked if she could visit O'Grady for the Holiday Season. More than ten years had passed since he had last seen her, since she had told him she was "dopted." His emotions were mixed, but the overwhelming need to see his daughter governed his choice. He gave into his parental ingoverned his choice. He gave
stincts and agreed to the visit
It was Nancy who arrived at the airport, of that there was no doubt. The soft snow fell gently on her beautiful, long brown hair as she hurried across the open lot toward O'Grady. He recognized her in an instant. She had inherited not a single physical characteristic from him. Each part of her belonged totally to Nancy. He was glad for that.
After placing the eighteen year old gifts under the tree, O'Grady went to the kitchen and lit the Can dle. He removed the milk from the refrigerator and the cookies from the cabinet above the sink. His an nual ritual was completed, only after he had jotted a quick note to Santa. Even the girl's presence could not free him from this obsession.
She had been there a week. It was the happiest of O'Grady's last eighteen years.

Who are the gifts for O'Grady?" Her question startled him. He hadn't been prepared for it. For the first time since her arrival, he realized he hadn't bought his daughter a single thing for Christmas. Now, on Christmas Eve, it was too late He went to the tree and selected the largest package, the portrait. He removed it from its familiar place and gave it to her
'For you", was all he said. "Thanks, O'Grady." The old paper crackled from age as she knelt before the tree opening her gift. O'Grady sat next to her. Without thought of what he was doing, his hand reached gently for her shoulder. The warm tears burned his eyes. He fought to keep them from spilling down his cheeks.
She stared at the portrait for a long time before turning toward him. Her own tears told him she knew Neither said a word
O'Grady raised himself from the comfort of his easy chair and went to the kitchen. He put out the Candle.
O'Grady knew he'd never light it again

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CHARLESTOWN

## Charlestown Police Line

by Bob (Doug) Donahue District 15, Boston Police Department

From all the Officers and Me at the Neighborhood Police Sta tion, we hope you and your fami ly enjoy a very Merry Christmas

JUST A REMINDER
Don't drink and drive, the life you save may be your own.

Sunday, December 14, 1980 About 7:45 p.m., a High Stree resident came to the Station to report that person(s) unknown pushed her 1977 BMW from its parking space out onto the mid dle of High Street, also smashing through the Sun Roof of her car About 8 p.m., a Monument Square resident came to the Sta tion to report that while his 1978 Chevrolet was parked at the above location, unknown per son(s) scratched his car in some unknown manner.

Monday, December 15, 1980 About 1:57 a.m., Officers Pezz ulo and Greenwood responded to a radio call to Bartlett Street on the report of a larceny. Upon arrival, they spoke to the owner of the house who stated two un known youths about 18 to 20 years took two Christmas Wreaths from the window and front door. (Two real creeps with no Christmas Spirit!
About 8 p.m., Officer Toler received a report from a Walker

Street woman who stated that while driving hēr car and when at the intersection of Russell and Sullivan Streets, she came to a stop as a result of "kids playing in the street," one of whom ran into the side of her car. The unknown youth, about 10 to 12 years, reiused to make him self known, stating "he was alright ", He then left the scene with his companions. $\qquad$
Tuesday, December 16, 1980 About 12:50 p.m., a West Medford man reported that while his 1979 Buick was parked unat tended at the Massport Ter minal, it was struck on the front end causing damage to the entire ront end by some unknown vehile, the driver of which failed to stop and make himself known. About 8:47 p.m. a Cordis Street man reported that while his 1977 V.W. was parked in front f his house, person(s) unknown roke the left vent window gain ing entrance to the vehicle and ng entrance AM The venicle and emoving a AM/FM Radio from the dashboard.
Wednesday, December 17, 1980 About 2:53 a.m., Officer Devoy and Green, while o routine patrol, recovered a 1968 Chrysler reported stolen on December 16, 1980 to the State Police by the owner, a Halifax
man. The car was towed to the Charlestown Tow for safe keep ing.
About 6:30 p.m., a High Street resident came to the Station to report that while his Pick-Up Truck was parked on High Street, person(s) unknown entered the truck and removed a radio, stereo, and tapes causing damage to the dash board and glove compartment. The vent window also had been broken

Thursday, December 18, 1980 About 1:30 a.m., a Dedham resident came to the Station to report that while her 1972 V.W was parked on High Street per son(s) unknown struck the front end and right fender of the vehi cle causing extensive damage The driver failed to mak himself known.
About 11:48 a.m., Officers responded to Thompson Square and took a report from a Waltham resident who stated that person(s) unknown removed 50 photo enlargements, $14^{\prime \prime} \times 18^{\prime \prime}$ 50 pholo enlargements, $14 \times 18$ on mounts, mostly in color, some B\&W photos in $28^{\prime \prime} \times 32^{\prime \prime} \times 33^{\prime \prime}$ grey case with black metal corners, secured by two straps, valued at $\$ 1500$ from her car. The cassettes in the black fitted case were valued at $\$ 250$. The photos were found in an alley adjacent to the parking lot.

CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT 241-9511

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Friday, December 19, 1980 About 12:05 a.m., Officers responded to a radio call to an abandoned car at Monument Square and Tremont Street. Upon arrival, they found a Pontiac with damage to the ignition. it has not been reported stolen at this time. The car was towed to Charlestown Tow for safe keeping.
About 7:45 a.m., Sergeants Harrington and Donahue responded to a radio call to a Bunker Hill Street place of business for a report of an Armed Robbery. Upon arrival, they talked to the Manager who stated two unknown white males came
into the store, one had a knife and took $\$ 75.00$ U.S. Currency and fled in an unknown direction About 4 p.m., a High Street resident came to District 15 to report person(s) unknown fired approximately $21 \mathrm{~B} / \mathrm{B}$ holes into the windshield of his 1975 Olds.

Saturday, December 20, 1980 About 11 a.m., Officers tagged and towed a car from High Street that was (YES) parked at a hydrant. Why is it some people never learn?

TO ONE AND ALL, A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

## C.Y.H.A. News

The schedule for the coming week:

| Mite | Saturday, December 27 | $7: 00 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Squirt A | Friday, December 26 | $7: 20 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Squirt B | Saturday, December 27 | $6: 40 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Pee Wee A | Sunday, December 28 | $5: 30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Pee Wee B | Monday, December 29 | $8: 00 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Midget B | Sunday, December 28 | $10: 10 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$ |
| Bantam A | Sunday, December 28 | $7: 00 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. |
| Bantam B | Friday, December 26 | $10: 20 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$ |

## Financial Aid

On Tuesday, January 13, 1981 the Guidance Department of Madison Park High School in conjunction with the financial aid of

## FOR SALE

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## Howard Slater

Certified Public Accountant
fice of Northeastern University will be holding a Financial Aid Information Night. Parents interested in finding out about sources of financial aid and in particular about filling in the FAF - the form used to apply for Fasic - grants, state and institution basic grants, state and institution
scholarships - are welcomed to scholarships - are welcomed to
attend. The workshop will take place between 7 and 9 p.m. at place between 7 and 9 p.m. at
Madison Park High School, Bldg. Madison Park High School, Bldg.
II (Red) in the 3rd floor cafeteria


Area/Wall-to-Wall/Stair Residential and Commercial Paul Brennan 241-9419 337-5348 Free Estimates

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Women's Soccer Beginners of all ages and abilities are invited to join the Women's Indoor Soccer League. Call 864-8181.
Films For Children
The Winter Films For SchoolAge Children will present "Christmas in Denmark" on Tuesday afternoon, December 23, 1980 at $3: 30$ p.m. at the Charlestown Branch Library, 179 Main Street.
Storytelling will follow the film program.

## TOWN MERCHANTS HARDWARE <br> 215 Bunker Hill St. New \& Rebuilt ROLLER SKATES $\$ 15.00$ a pair. <br> Xmas Lites-double flashing, weather proof, 35 lite se

Testimonial To Legion State Commander Jim Conv.

## by H. Vincent Strout, Chairman

On Saturday evening, January 10, 1981, there will be a Testimonial Banquet held, by the Department of Massachusetts, The American Legion, honoring Department Commander James W. Conway of 7 Belmont Street, Charlestown. It will be held at 7 p.m. at the Radisson Ferncroft Hotel \& Country Club, Danvers, Mass. with tickets priced at $\$ 13$. per person or tables of ten for $\$ 130$.
Jim Conway is the first Charlestown resident, in the 62 year history of the American Legion, to ever have been elected Legion State Commander and as you are most likely aware has been a leader in veteran and civic affairs in the Charlestown community for over a quarter of a

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century. He has served Bunker Hill Post 26 , A.L. a. three separate occasions and has given unselfishly of his . community organizations.
Arrangements have been made to provide transportation to from the Testimonial Banquet for Legion State Commander Jim Conway, to be held on Saturday, January 10, 1981, at the Radisson Ferncroft Hotel and Country Club, Danvers, Mass,
Anyone interested in the round trip bus ride, which will leave Thompson Square at 6:00 p.m., should contact Kay Whelan at 242-0817 or Mary Kelly at 241-9678. Price of the bus ride is $\$ 3.50$ per person, on a first come-first serve basis.
As an adjunct to the Testimonial Banquet a souvenir Program Book will be distributed. We sincerely hope that you will utilize this book to give your own personal message or congratulations. Rates are: Full page- $\$ 60$; Half page- $\$ 30$; Quarter page- $\$ 15$; Eighth page- $\$ 10$; Compliments of $\$ 5$. Copy deadline is December 29th, 1980. Checks for ads should accompany the copy and be forwarded to Arthur L. Hurley, Treasurer, Conway Testimonial Committee P.O. Box 54. Charlestown, Mass.
Checks for tickets, at $\$ 13$ each, may also be forwarded to Treasurer Hurley

For tickets detach this coupon and mail to
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Charlestown, Mass. 02129
Enclosed find check, payable to Conway Testimonial Committee in the amount of $\qquad$
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## New Year's Deadline

Plan ahead for the special deadline for the New Year's Edition of The Charlestown Patriot.
The New Year's edition, which will have a dateline of January 1, will be on the stands Tuesday, December 30th. The deadline for copy and advertisements is Saturday, December 27th at noon.


53 Main Street<br>242-2468 242-0526

## Attend BHCC Conference



VISITING BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE in Charlestown for the statewide conference on Criminal Victimization of Older Citizens, Governor Edward J. King meets with William M. Craft, left, dean of the Open College representing President Harold E. Shively and Mrs. Frances Olrich, coordinator, education for aging for the college. At right is Robert DePauw of Charlestown, of the Mas sachusetts Committee on Criminal Justice who coordinated the conference for that agency with the cooperation of the Massachusetts Department of Elder Affairs and the Executive Office of Public Safety. Close to 300 people were in attendance.


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